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BULLETIN
of
THE MARITIME LIBRARY INSTITUTE

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Wolfville, Nova Scotia

M. L. I. Officers for 1936-37

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FOREWORD

At the second Annual Conference of the Maritime Library Institute, convened at Sackville, N. B., May 29, 1936, in the Library of Mount Allison University, it was resolved that a Bulletin be published as the official organ of the Institute. This is a venture of faith. The issues will perhaps be irregular for a short time, but they will be published as often as funds permit. The Bulletin will reflect the interests and aims of the librarians of the Maritime Provinces of Canada, but will assume that these interests and aims are not regional only, that librarianship is a learned profession, and that the thoughts of librarians reach towards the four corners of the earth and beyond.

HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTE

The first organization of librarians and library workers in the Maritime Provinces of Canada was the Maritime Library Association, instituted in 1918, at a meeting convened in the Library of Acadia University. Mr. E. J. Lay, Librarian of the Amherst Public Library, was the first President. Before the Association was definitely established as a working force in the Provinces Mr. Lay died, and interest in the movement lapsed. In the summer of 1922 another meeting was called at Acadia University, and the Association was reorganized, with Dr. W. C. Milner, then Dominion

Archivist for Nova Scotia, as President. The Association continued to meet somewhat intermittently for several years; some work was accomplished, but co-ordination of effort proved difficult, all but impossible. After 1928 no annual conferences were called, and no dues were collected. One might easily conclude that the Maritime Library Association was no longer a living institution.

In the summer of 1934, fifteen librarians from the Maritime Provinces were at the same time in Montreal, attending the 56th Annual Conference of the American Library Association. These met by appointment, discussed their need of a permanent body for co-operative effort, and agreed to reorganize the Maritime Library Association. This was accomplished, with Mrs. John Stanfield of Truro, N. S. as their President, and the librarians went home, stimulated to begin their work again, with larger aims, and these more clearly defined.

They found unexpected obstacles in the way. The presiding officer of the former Association had not been present at the reorganization and condemned the proceeding as irregular. Accordingly, at the first Annual Conference, May 30, 1935, it was resolved that the name be changed to Maritime Library Institute, that all properties of the former Maritime Library Association be returned to those constituting themselves its officers, and that the Institute be considered an independent body.

At last the way seems clear for constructive effort. Since our new foundation in 1934 we have enrolled fifty members, five of these being library institutions. One of our members has been removed by death, and our ranks have been slightly depleted by marriage and removals. The second Annual Conference at Sackville, N. B., in Mount Allison University Library, on May 29, 1936, was well attended. It would seem that a Maritime Library Institute is at last established.

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Twenty or more members of the M. L. I. assembled in Mount Allison Memorial Library, Sackville, N. B., on Friday, May 29, for the second Annual Conference. President E. M. A. Vaughan in her opening address gave an interesting report of the 58th Annual Conference of the A. L. A. at Richmond, Va., which she had attended earlier in the month. The Secretary in her report stressed the need of an official organ of the Institute as a means of co-ordinating the interests of the members and strengthening the organization, and suggested that a Bulletin be published as often as possible. After amicable discussion it was resolved upon motion that the publishing of a Bulletin be undertaken. The question of institutional membership in the A. L. A. was also discussed, and the Secretary instructed to apply for a regular membership of the M. L. I. in that body. Next came greetings from the Ontario Library Association, with an invitation that the Institute meet with it next spring in its annual conference at Ottawa. It was agreed that all who could do so should attend the Ottawa meeting as delegates of the M. L. I., but that our third annual conference should meet in the Library of St. Francis Xavier University, in grateful response to the invitation extended us by the librarian, Miss Mary C. MacDonald.

The remainder of the morning session and part of the afternoon were occupied by reports from libraries and archives, and from the two library clubs in Saint John and Halifax. Miss Nora Bateson, Director of the Carnegie Demonstration in Prince Edward Island, reviewed its work for the last three years. The Government of Prince Edward Island is taking over the enterprise, but at a much smaller annual outlay than was expended by the Demonstration. The librarians were delighted to hear Miss Bateson, and are sorry she is leaving the Maritime Provinces. Miss Doreen Harper of the N. B. Legislative Library read a paper, "Standards for Cataloguing in Small Libraries", and Miss Marion Gilroy of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia also read a paper, "Public Libraries in the Maritime Provinces". We regret that we have not space for summaries of these valuable papers, but we reserve them for later issues of the Bulletin. During the session the program was agreeably interrupted by a call to afternoon tea.

The evening session was held in Centennial Hall and was open to the public. Prof. A. W. Trueman, of the English Department of Mount Allison University, addressed the meeting most acceptably on the subject of the poem by Robert Bridges, "The Testament of Beauty".

ECHOES FROM THE CONFERENCE

To the library of the Extension Department of St. Francis Xavier University about 250 volumes have been added during the year.

A few members of the M. L. I. are behind in the payment of dues.

Mr. John Allan Drummond has built up a library for the Boys' Club of Hopewell Cape, Albert County, N. B. Hon. R. B. Bennett made the first large donation to this library.

Mrs. Donald Grant of the William Inglis Morse Collection of Acadia University Library was stricken by illness last September and has not been able to resume her work.

Miss Eugenie Archibald of Dalhousie University Library, the founder of the Halifax Library Club, has recently been laid aside by illness, but is recovering rapidly.

The Halifax Library Club held two meetings during the year and another is planned. The Club has fifteen members.

The Saint John Branch of the M. L. I. has had an active and successful year. There are twelve members.

The Ven. Archdeacon F. W. Vroom recently resigned his position as Librarian of the University of King's College, and has been succeeded by Prof. Burns Martin.